

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-13. (canceled)

14. (new) An internal combustion engine, comprising  
a control unit;  
a combustion space formed between a piston and a cylinder head; and  
a fuel injection device with an injection nozzle, which has a nozzle needle  
and a plurality of injection bores, wherein  
the injection nozzle is arranged to inject fuel into the combustion  
space in the form of a plurality of fuel jets as at least one of a main  
injection, pre-injection and post-injection,  
the nozzle needle is arranged to permit fuel injection selectively  
through at least two separate groups of said injection bores, and  
the control unit is programmed to control an operating stroke of the  
nozzle needle as a function of at least one of a piston position and an  
operating point of the internal combustion engine.

15. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14,  
wherein  
each of the at least two separate groups of bores are arranged in the rows  
about a circumference of the injection nozzle, and

at least one row of bores has a fuel injection cone angle which is different from a fuel injection cone angle of a different row of bores.

16. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 15,  
wherein

a first row of bores is activated during main injection and a second row of holes is activated during at least in of pre-injection and post-injection, and the first row fuel injection cone angle is greater than the second row fuel injection cone angle.

17. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14,  
wherein a fuel injection pressure is set as a function of at least one of the piston position and the operating point.

18. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14,  
wherein the operating stroke of the nozzle needle is controlled by the control unit to form an unstable cavitating flow in the injection bores.

19. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14,  
wherein the engine is configured to produce a gas swirl movement in the combustion space.

20. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 19,  
wherein the nozzle needle is controlled to inject fuel in one of a continuous or an intermittent manner while the gas swirl movement is present in the combustion

space, such that the injected fuel is laterally displaced relative to the fuel injection device by the swirl movement.

21. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the operating stroke of the nozzle needle of the injection nozzle needle is controlled to provide an effective flow cross section between the nozzle needle and a nozzle needle seat amounting to about 0.8 to 1.2 times an effective flow cross section of the sum of all the injection bores.

22. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the fuel injection cone angle of each injection bore is between 60° and 160°.

23. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the operating stroke of the nozzle needle is set by one of a two-spring holder and a piezoelectric actuator.

24. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 14, wherein the piston has a dish-shaped piston recess and a projection extending from a center of the piston recess toward the injection nozzle.

25. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 24, wherein the piston recess has, starting from a radially outer region, a flat entry region with a low curvature and, from the region of a maximum recess depth, a greater curvature extending into the piston recess projection.

26. (new) The internal combustion engine as claimed in claim 24,  
wherein the piston recess projection has a cone angle in a range of 90° to 140°.